UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/394
7 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that a Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova was held in Geneva today, 7 April 1999, and addressed the seriously disturbing situation in Kosova. As the Chairman of the Contact Group, I have the further honour to transmit, herewith, the declaration adopted at that meeting.

It will be appreciated if this letter and its annex were to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the OIC Contact Group on
Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova

Annex

Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova, meeting on 7 April 1999 in Geneva to review the recent developments in Kosova:

- Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977, as well as other instruments of international humanitarian law;

- Take note of the statement of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova in New York;

- Urge the immediate implementation of the elements contained in the draft resolution of OIC on the situation of human rights in Kosova presented before the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights which:

  - Stipulates that the *Kosovars* must be allowed to freely determine their own political future;

  - Strongly condemns the policy of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Serbian authorities against the Albanian Kosovars;

  - Demands an immediate halt to all repressive actions undertaken in Kosova by the Serbian authorities and the immediate withdrawal of the Serbian military and paramilitary forces from Kosova;

  - Calls upon the international community to bring to international criminal justice the perpetrators of ethnic cleansing and all other crimes against humanity in Kosova;

  - Demands also that the Serbian authorities immediately sign and implement the Rambouillet Accords;

  - Appeals to the international community to extend all humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons inside and outside Kosova;

- Regret that the Security Council has been unable to discharge its responsibility in this case, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reiterate that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and that, in carrying out its duties under this responsibility, the Security Council shall act on behalf of the Members of the United Nations;

- Express their solidarity with the Kosovars and Bosniac national minorities in Sanjak region;

- Decide to establish contacts with all parties concerned at the appropriate time and further enhance their cooperation with the International Contact Group and its members as well as Kosova political leadership with the view to promote a peaceful, just and lasting settlement of the Kosova crisis and to dispatch a high-level delegation for talks with them;

- Undertake to contribute to the monitoring and peacekeeping operations in Kosova as part of international peacekeeping effort;

- Appreciate all the assistance being provided by the OIC countries to Kosovars and refugees, including the receipt of thousands of refugees from Kosova and provision of humanitarian assistance to them;

- While appreciating the efforts being made, appeal to the international community to extend all humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons in and outside Kosova with the view to alleviate their suffering, and request the neighbouring countries and the international community to continue to receive the Kosova refugees;

- Underscore the right of all refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes in safety and honour, preventing any measures taken by the Serbian authorities to evacuate the region of its original people and, in this context, demand that compensation and reparation be given to all the victims of the Serbian repression by the Serbian authorities;

- Decide to urgently mobilize humanitarian assistance for the Kosovar victims, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

- Decide also to set up a coordination group of the Permanent Representatives of the OIC Contact Group in Geneva to coordinate OIC assistance to Kosova and interact with the humanitarian agencies involved to be briefed on actions taken by the concerned agencies;

- Strongly appeal to all OIC members and to the international community as a whole to stay firm to all their commitments regarding the full implementation of all aspects of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly unimpeded implementation of annex VII - Return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes of origin;

- Support the present efforts of the Office of the High Representative and the Stabilization Force to protect the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina in all its aspects.